

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-01

SCCT-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W

----- 102680

R 181310Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7277

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: IBRAHIMI MOSQUE, INCIDENT AT HEBRON

REF: JERUSALEM 1288 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN MOSLEM RESIDENTS OF HEBRON AND ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES AUG. 15 RESULTED IN ARREST OF AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF MOSLEMS. HEBRON SEALED OFF AUG. 15 TO PREVENT LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY WEST BANK ARAB GROUPS PROTESTING NEW ISRAELI REGULATIONS GOVERNING ACCESS TO THE MOSQUE. ARABS CONTINUE TO VOICE STRONG OPPOSITION TO NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOSQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 15, SECOND SUCCESSIVE DAY OF CLASHES BETWEEN MOSLEM HEBRONITE RESIDENTS AND ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES, AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF MOSLEMS WERE ARRESTED WHEN DEMONSTRATIONS ERUPTED AFTER FRIDAY NOON PRAYERS AT THE IBRAHIMI MOSQUE.

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3. CONGEN RECEIVED REPORT FRIDAY AUG. 15 THAT HEBRON WAS CLOSED

BY ISRAELI SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO ALL OUTSIDE TRAFFIC AS AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT WEST BANK ARABS FROM CONVERGING ON HEBRON IN RESPONSE TO CALLS BY CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATIONS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS THERE AND IN REST OF WEST BANK AND GAZA. PRESS REPORTS ISRAELI HALFTRACK BLOCKED ENTRANCE TO HEBRON AND PREVENTED NON-HEBRONITE TRAFFIC FROM ENTERING TOWN. AS IN SIMILAR INCIDENT AUG 14, DEMONSTRATORS STONED SECURITY FORCES IN BRIEF CONFRONTATION. ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST NO INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE ELSEWHERE IN WEST BANK.

4. DURING PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED COURTESY CALL BY CONSUL GENERAL AND POLOFF AUG. 16, SHEIKH HILMI MUHTASSIB, PRESIDENT OF SUPREME MOSLEM COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM AND DIRECTOR OF AWQAF (ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS PROPERTY) PROTESTED DIVISION OF IBRAHIMI MOSQUE WHICH HE ALLEGED ISRAELIS HAD IN EFFECT TAKEN OVER IN ENTIRETY. HE CLAIMED ISRAELIS HAD COMMITTED 77

VIOLATIONS OF SANCTITY OF MOSQUE SINCE 1967 AND HAD NOT ANSWERED ANY OF HIS WRITTEN PROTESTS.

5. COMMENT: IN WEEK LONG SERIES OF COURTESY CALLS ON TEN WEST BANK MAYORS, CONSUL GENERAL HAS ENCOUNTERED UNIVERSAL OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI PLANNED DIVISION OF IBRAHIMI MOSQUE. RELIGIOUS ISSUE OF MOSQUE HAS AFFECTED OVERWHELMINGLY MOSLEM WEST BANK POPULATION AS NO OTHER POLITICAL ISSUE SINCE ARAFAT UNGA APPEARANCE IN NOV. 1974. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS CAN BE ANTICIPATED IF AND WHEN ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY PARTITION MOSQUE.

NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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